

1. A method for securely delivering content over a network comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing at least one title on a content server operatively coupled to the network, the title stored in unexecutable form;
 - (b) storing on an access server operatively coupled to the network a location identifier of the title and data necessary to process the title into executable form;
 - (c) requiring a client process operatively coupled to the network to obtain the location identifier of the title from the access server prior to retrieving at least a portion of the title from the content server; and
 - (d) requiring a client process to obtain from the access server the data necessary to process the portion of the title into executable form.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- (e) requiring the client process to obtain the signature of the access server and to present the signature to the content server before retrieving at least a portion of the title from the content server.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- (e) requiring the client process to obtain from the access server time data defining a time period in which the client process may retrieve at least a portion of the title from the content server.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:
- (f) requiring the client process to obtain new time data from the access server once the time period has expired and before retrieving at least a portion of the title from the content server.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

1. ~~3. (e)~~ requiring the client process to obtain new time data from the access server
2 once the time period has expired and before retrieving at least a portion of
3 the title from the content server.

1 6. An apparatus for secure delivery of over a network comprising:
2 (a) a content server operatively coupled to the network and having at least one
3 title stored therein unexecutable form;
4 (b) an access server operatively coupled to the network and having stored
5 therein a location identifier of the title and data necessary to process the title
6 into executable form; and
7 (c) a client system operatively coupled to the network and containing program
8 logic configured to obtain from the access server the location identifier of the
9 title and the data necessary to process the portion of the title into executable
10 form.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the client system further comprises:
2 program logic configured to execute portion of the title.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the access server further comprises:
2 program logic configured to generate time data defining a time period in which
3 the client system may retrieve at least a portion of the title from the content server.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the client system further comprises:
2 program logic configured to request new time data from the access server once
3 the time period has expired.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the network comprises a broadband access
2 network.

3 11. Apparatus for secure delivery of content over a network comprising:

4 (A) a content server comprising a processor, a memory and a network
5 interface for operatively coupling the content server to the network, the content
6 server further comprising:

7 (A.1) authentication logic, responsive to a token received from a
8 client process, the token containing data identifying a time period and
9 configured to determine whether the client process is authorized to access
10 the memory at a specific time; and

11 (A.2) access logic, responsive to the token received from the client
12 process, the token containing data uniquely identifying one of the titles
13 stored in the memory, for enabling access to the memory and the title
14 uniquely identified by the token;

15 (B) an access server comprising a processor, a memory and a network
16 interface for operatively coupling the access server to the network, the access
17 server further comprising:

18 (B.1) conversion logic, responsive to a unique identifier of a title
19 supplied by a client process and configured to convert the unique identifier
20 of the title into a location identifier indicating an address on the network
21 where the title may be accessed; and

22 (B.2) activator generation logic responsive to a request from a
23 client process and configured to generate an activator in response thereto;
24 and

25 (C) a client system comprising a processor, a memory and a network
interface for operatively coupling the client system to the content server and the
access server over the network, the client system further comprising:

1 (C.1) program logic configured to obtain from the access server a
2 token, an activator and a location identifier of the content server at which an
3 identified title can be accessed;

4 (C.2) program logic configured to retrieve at least a portion of the
5 title from the content server; and

6 (C.3) program logic configured to execute the portion of the title
7 retrieved from the content server.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the client system further comprises an
2 operating system executable on the processor and wherein the client system further
3 comprises:

4 (C.4) program logic configured to mount a network file system
5 associated with the identified title and store in the memory of the client system, a
6 plurality of registry entries related to the title;

7 (C.5) program logic configured to intercept requests from the
8 operating system during title execution and redirect selected of the intercepted
9 request to the set of registry entries.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the activator comprises cryptographic data.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the activator comprises at least one bytecode
2 and the client system further comprises:

3 (C.4) program logic configured to interpret and execute the
4 bytecode contained within the activator.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the token comprises data identifying the
2 access server which generated the token.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the activator further comprises authorization
2 data.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the token further comprises:
2 start time data and end time data which collectively define a time period.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the title is stored in the memory of the content
2 server in the form of a briq.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the briq comprises at least one file containing
2 data comprising at least a portion of a title.

3
4 20. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the network comprises a broadband access
5 network.